

May 26, 1976

STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION (SCC)

In the first session of SALT, in 1969, it was suggested that there be a continuing process for consultation following conclusion of any agreements, in order to provide a mechanism for discussing and resolving the problems which would inevitably arise, and thus to make such agreements more viable. Both sides agreed on the probable utility of a permanent bilateral body which would be charged with functions related to (a) implementation of a strategic arms limitation agreement, and (b) consideration of questions concerning compliance with its provisions. The proposals of both sides for the terms of a SALT agreement began to reflect a draft provision for establishing a Standing Commission setting forth its functions and responsibilities. Early agreement was achieved on the text of Article XIII for inclusion in the ABM Treaty which was signed on May 26, 1972. The corresponding article of the Interim Agreement limiting strategic offensive arms is Article VI.

The Standing Consultative Commission (SCC) was formally established by the Memorandum of Understanding of December 21, 1972. It is a joint US-USSR body charged with promoting implementation of the objectives and provisions of the SALT

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ONE agreements -- the ABM Treaty and Interim Agreement of May 26, 1972, and the Agreement on Measures to Reduce the Risk of Outbreak of Nuclear War of September 30, 1971.

In connection with the SALT agreements already in force, the Commission is responsible for a number of important functions which are specifically set forth in Article XIII of the ABM Treaty. In particular, it is a forum for considering questions of compliance with obligations assumed under such agreements, for reconciling any misunderstandings or uncertainties arising in the performance of those obligations, and for considering possible proposals for increasing the viability of agreements already concluded as well as possible proposals for further strategic arms limitation measures.

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Understanding and the provisions of Article XIII of the ABM Treaty, which constitute its basic charter, the SCC would probably also be entrusted with similar implementation functions with respect to future strategic arms limitation agreements which may be concluded between the U.S. and the USSR.

Each Government is represented on the SCC by a Commissioner and a Deputy Commissioner, who are assisted by such staff and advisors as they deem necessary. The U.S. Commissioner is Mr. S. N. Graybeal, and the Deputy U.S. Commissioner is Brigadier

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General Frank E. Serio. The Soviet Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner are Brigadier General G. I. Ustinov and Mr. Victor P. Karpov. The Commission holds periodic sessions in Geneva, at least twice annually at times mutually agreed between Commissioners, and may be convened for additional sessions at the request of either Commissioner. Between sessions, the Commissioners may communicate with one another through diplomatic channels concerning any matter within the competence of the Commission.

It was established in the regulations of the SCC that the proceedings of the Commission would be private. We believe that this has facilitated direct and frank exchanges concerning strategic weapons systems and other matters related to SALT agreement implementation. Of course, it is understood that the SCC Commissioners will keep their respective Governments fully informed, in accordance with the relevant processes and procedures of those Governments. This method of operation should enhance the possibilities of continuing those direct and frank exchanges which are necessary if the SCC is to effectively carry out its assigned responsibilities.

The SCC convened its first session in the Spring of 1973, and, after agreeing on the Regulations which govern its internal operation, turned to its first priority task, the working out of procedures to implement certain provisions of the ABM Treaty

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and the Interim Agreement. By the close of the third SCC Session, in June 1974, the two Protocols on Procedures Governing Replacement, Dismantling or Destruction, and Notification Thereof -- one for Strategic Offensive Arms and one for ABM Systems and their Components -- were completed and agreed upon. These two documents were signed in Moscow on July 3, 1974. As the titles indicate, their provisions govern the replacement of certain older ICBM launchers and launchers on older submarines by ballistic missile launchers on modern submarines as permitted under the Interim Agreement, as well as the dismantling or destruction of weapons systems and components in excess of those permitted by the ABM Treaty and the Interim Agreement.

The SCC has also taken up items in connection with enhancing implementation of the Agreement on Measures to Reduce the Risk of Outbreak of Nuclear War, as well as the ABM replacement procedures which need to be worked out in light of the Protocol to the ABM Treaty signed in Moscow in July 1974. (This Protocol limits each side to one ABM deployment area. However, the US has the right to exchange its ABM deployment area in defense of ICBMs for a defense of the national capital, and the USSR has the right to exchange its ABM defense of the national capital for an ABM deployment area in defense of ICBMs.)

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An important agenda item has been the discussion of compliance-related questions. The SCC, as an implementing body, operates in accordance with Presidentially-approved instructions. It provides a direct-contact forum for discussing and clarifying questions of compliance and related, possibly ambiguous, situations. The SCC has shown that it can perform a valuable service and be useful in clarifying and removing questions and ambiguities related to implementation of, and compliance with, the provisions of complex and sensitive arms control agreements.

STANDING CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION (SCC)

"Pre-I" During SALT ONE (Nov. 1969-May 1972) there were discussions concerning the SCC, and Article XIII of the ABM Treaty and Article VI of the Interim Agreement were negotiated.

"Pre-I" During the first session of SALT TWO, Nov. 21, 1972 through Dec. 21, 1972, a Joint Working Group of the SALT Delegations negotiated the Memorandum of Understanding and worked on the draft SCC Regulations. Amb. Smith acted as U.S. Commissioner, and Mr. Graybeal was his representative and co-chairman of the Working Group.

SESSION

I	May 30, 1973	through	July 5, 1973*
II	Sep. 25, 1973	"	Nov. 16, 1973
III	Apr. 2, 1974	"	Jun. 19, 1974
IV	Sep. 24, 1974	"	Oct. 28, 1974
V	Jan. 28, 1975	"	Feb. 13, 1975
VI	Mar. 24, 1975	"	May 6, 1975
VII	Sep. 22, 1975	"	Oct. 29, 1975
VIII	Mar. 29, 1976	"	May 5, 1976

*The same Working Group mentioned above completed work on the Regulations of the SCC between May 21 and May 29, and they were signed at the first official meeting of SCC-I on May 30.